

From: Bill Buxton
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Antitrust Settlement

I feel sold out. I can not fathom by what degree of righteousness the DOJ can possibly think that a settlement of a few billion dollars constitutes justice. I have been around, or in, the computer industry since 1980 when I took my first programming class. Over the years I have watched with sadness as one company after an other has sought to dominate (control) the industry. My greatest hopes were on Microsoft as they seemed to talk the talk of equity and fairness. Then, from my own experience, I learned that they were one of the worst offenders. They have sought the advantage of every loophole and trick to market their products and control competitors. I have even felt they broke the law in several instances where they sought to extend and embrace competitors, or persuaded companies that it would not be wise to market competing technologies.

The bottom line is that what they have done is illegal and immoral. To punish them with a simple fine draws short of preventing them or other companies from doing the same in the future. Microsoft should be broken up into smaller companies (OS, Desktop applications, Back Office or application integration, and web technologies) so that they do not have the ability to wield such influence to stifle future competition.

PS

My view are my own and not those of the company I currently work for.

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